

AGENDA  
MOBIUS Task Force on Financial Planning  
July 14, 2008  
Conference Call, 2:00 p.m.

Roster: Chair, Sharon McCaslin ([smccaslin@fontbonne.edu](mailto:smccaslin@fontbonne.edu))  
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2:00 p.m.      Call in per instructions.

Issues to cover:

- (1) Model. I have not received any written suggestions for changes in the data elements or the percentages. I have received two complaints from private institutions which feel that the state-supported institutions should continue to bear a larger part of the cost. I have not received any written rationale for that position, nor do I think it is the predominant one. Unless you have heard more concern with our model, I am suggesting we simply complete the caveats, but if you have heard anything, now would be the time to bring it up.
- (2) Inflation. Determining the inflation factor to insert for the 09-10 year. (Keep in mind that all of our numbers are not even recommendations, but are rather guesses for illustration. The actual amount of next year's budget is recommended by Beth several months from now and approved by the Executive Board. If the Council adopts our financial model, it will then be applied and assessments may be quite different.)
- (3) Contingency. Determining the contingency fund amount. I have heard 4% inflation and I do not have a contingency number at hand – if you have suggestions, bring them with you. Adding it now will bring our illustration closer to reality and avoid unpleasant surprises for the Council.
- (4) Staff. From what I have seen of the Strategic Planning process, we are not likely to get firm suggestions about staffing directions. I do know that if we are requiring MOBIUS staff to come up with the numbers each year (and my experience this spring leads me to strongly recommend that we NOT rely on self-reported numbers from the membership), then we have to consider at least a partial position for “institutional research”. I do not

know what this amount would be, but I think it is essential as a reality check.

- (5) Borrowing and Lending stats. If MCO has been able to come up with the cluster and INNreach borrowing and lending statistics for 05-06, 06-07 (we have these, but they may need verification), and 07-08, we should try entering the 3-year average into our spreadsheet.
- (6) Update on separate billing for cluster-specific software and additional “beyond core” services. Beth will have to come up with recommendations, which I am sure the Task Force will largely endorse, but we cannot do it on our own.
- (7) Phase in of the new model. I am suggesting that we take whatever budget “guess” number we have after step 4 above, figure out the percentage increase, and add it to each of the 08-09 assessments, calling that the “old model assessment”. Then we make the recommended assessment one third of the difference between that number and the assessment which comes from the new model. The following year we could go two thirds of the distance between old and new models. And the third year of the plan the new model would be fully installed. Let me know if this procedure (merely a matter of arithmetic and spread sheets) meets with your approval or if you have a different suggestion.
- (8) Financial Task Force representation on July 25. I think it would be wise to have someone from this group at each of the discussion groups.
- (9) Need for a meeting on Thursday?